NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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For Early Attention in the New Year

Hotel reservations at the Stevens for the Chicago convention date from Sunday, January 21. If members of the Association expect to arrive earlier or later they should give advance notice of this fact to the hotel direct.

The Stevens Hotel will prepare a printed directory to be hung in the elevator lobby on each floor of the hotel during the annual convention, this directory to contain an alphabetical listing of the names of firms and room number of headquarters in which they will be found. Firms desiring to be listed in this directory must furnish their names and room numbers *direct to the hotel* so that this information will arrive on or before Friday, January 18.

If canners are unable to give their room numbers at the time they notify the Stevens Hotel that they wish their names to be printed in the Directory, this information will be supplied from the hotel records or can be conveyed to the hotel by the individual canners at the time of their arrival, for inclusion in the revised list.

Schedules for the census of stocks of canned corn, peas and tomatoes will be mailed to canners by the Census Bureau during the week ended January 5. Early publication of the results of the survey is dependent on prompt return of the schedules, and the value of the survey is greatly increased by early publication. Member canners are earnestly requested to reply promptly to the Census Bureau's request.

Canners to Confer on Tariff Revision

Each of the state and regional canners associations has been invited to send representatives to meetings that will convene at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago Monday morning, January 14, to consider the preparation of briefs on tariff revision for presentation to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Hearings on the agricultural products schedule have been set for January 24, 25 and 28, and because of the complete and continuous program of hearings the Ways and Means Committee is unable to arrange for a change in dates. Accordingly it will be necessary for the canning industry to present its evidence by January 28 at the latest.

The National Canners Association has arranged to have its counsel present at the meetings in Chicago, and when the canners' sentiment regarding the revision of the tariff is obtained the Association's counsel will prepare briefs to be filed with the Ways and Means Committee on January 28.

Through the proper governmental agencies statistical data is now being collected for the use and information of this meeting of the state association representatives, who have been asked to come prepared with all available information they can assemble on output, production costs, importance of the canning industry to agriculture, and related topics.

House Approves More Funds for Crop Reporting

Before adjourning for the holiday recess the House passed the bill (H. R. 15569) making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the next fiscal year. Some changes were made both by the House Committee and on the floor of the House from the estimates as submitted by the Bureau of the Budget. As it passed the House the bill retains an increase of $49,820 in the appropriation for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the purpose of improving the crop reporting service on fruits and vegetables.

Census Issues Corn Pack Statistics

The Department of Commerce announced December 28 that, according to data collected at the annual census of canneries, the total pack of corn in the United States in 1928 was equivalent to 14,497,130 standard cases of No. 2 cans, an increase of 40.1 per cent as compared with 10,346,680 standard cases for 1927. Because of the failure of a few canners to report their pack, the total for 1928 is incomplete for Indiana, but for all other States it is practically complete.

The actual number of cases packed in 1928 was 14,252,508, of which 885,448 cases were No. 1 cans (48 to the case), 12,774,485 cases were of No. 2 cans (24 to the case), 426,938 cases were of No. 10 cans (6 to the case), and 165,637 cases were of cans of other sizes and glass jars (6 oz., 8 oz., 12 oz., No. 2½, No. 3, No. 5, and No. 303, and glass jars of 20 oz. and under).

Of the 345 concerns which canned corn in 1928, 338 reported canning operations in one State only, 6 in two States, and 1 in three States.

The equivalent numbers of standard cases of corn pack in States reporting more than 500,000 cases were as follows: Illinois, 3,016,508; Iowa, 2,541,097; Maryland, 1,648,481; Minnesota, 1,647,816; Ohio, 1,137,799; Indiana, 1,131,065; Maine, 966,309; New York, 666,141; Wisconsin, 577,504. The combined pack in these 9 States amounted to 92 per cent of the total for the United States.

The following table presents statistics for all States for which separate figures can be shown without disclosing the production of individual canners:

States	Total number of cases as reported		Equivalent total number of standard cases[1]	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Illinois	2,980,946	* 1,943,510	3,016,508	1,961,433
Iowa	2,494,621	1,352,133	2,541,097	1,376,546
Maryland	1,638,663	1,482,028	1,648,481	1,493,226
Minnesota	1,626,960	1,072,151	1,647,816	1,088,421
Ohio	1,120,588	834,301	1,137,799	845,871
Indiana	1,112,299	697,942	1,131,065	703,019
Maine	946,213	786,469	966,309	805,732
New York	645,678	651,107	666,141	675,717
Wisconsin	546,164	298,561	577,504	309,630
Pennsylvania	208,926	166,532	213,200	170,953
Nebraska	208,427	259,254	214,938	260,632
Delaware	168,287	221,784	168,497	222,094
Vermont	130,573	120,647	139,610	121,316
Michigan	120,791	79,435	129,221	85,669
All other States (a)	294,367	222,170	298,864	226,389
United States	14,252,508	10,189,144	14,497,130	10,346,650

(a) For 1928—Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. For 1927—Idaho, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington.

Corn and Tomato Packs in Tri-States

Statistics on the corn and tomato pack of Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey have been issued by the Tri-State Packers Association. According to these statistics, the total pack of tomatoes in the three states in equivalent No. 3 cans was 2,168,918 cases. The pack in 1927 as reported by the Census Bureau was 4,774,749 cases.

The corn pack in equivalent No. 2 cans in 1928 was 1,877,995 cases as compared with 1,735,227 cases in 1927.

November Imports of Tomato Products

Imports of canned tomatoes in November fell off about 6,000,000 pounds, as compared to the same month last year, while there was a decrease of about 80,000 pounds in the imports of tomato paste. The following table shows the monthly imports during 1927 and 1928 up to November.

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
1927	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
January	9,296,877	$494,207	1,445,927	$132,515
February	5,489,552	314,941	936,467	98,369
March	4,836,870	271,880	1,287,965	121,256
April	4,509,082	270,073	1,528,165	146,935
May	2,458,147	158,872	814,628	90,624
June	2,121,532	137,596	1,168,572	113,227
July	2,002,395	118,397	419,685	45,053
August	2,728,466	154,074	969,729	97,470
September	13,769,133	720,612	1,229,864	121,868
October	10,467,120	1,046,814	2,117,567	232,821
November	20,530,984	1,071,984	1,276,078	126,595
Total	86,210,148	4,770,396	12,996,147	1,336,733
1928				
January	12,650,694	666,463	2,318,396	219,000
February	7,909,498	446,298	563,266	56,268
March	4,349,166	243,658	384,272	42,162
April	4,178,502	265,842	435,923	45,651
May	4,490,352	236,987	539,099	59,421
June	3,273,618	194,170	430,490	46,346
July	2,708,707	159,952	272,581	35,025
August	710,144	50,790	323,255	38,973
September	3,820,110	202,421	650,354	60,772
October	10,321,380	1,046,273	768,023	76,975
November	15,762,130	750,672	1,191,390	137,474
Total	70,674,301	4,292,899	8,100,249	836,067

A Second Look Told the Story

Several weeks ago a consumer complaint was brought to the attention of the Association, in which it was alleged that a piece of glass had been found in a can of fruit, and that injury had resulted from biting on this piece of glass. The Association's investigator was given an opportunity to inspect the piece of glass, and he ascertained that the fruit had been emptied from the can into a glass bowl. The complainant stated that the bowl had been carefully examined, and she was confident that the bowl had not been chipped. The investigator however, carefully inspected the bowl, found the place where the glass had been chipped and fitted in the broken piece.

The claim was made in entire good faith, and when the true facts developed the complainant apologized for the trouble caused, and expressed appreciation of the care taken in handling the investigation.

Canned Food Exports in November

During November of the current year, exports of canned fruits increased largely over the shipments made in November,

1927. There were also increases, although not relatively so large, in the exports of canned vegetables. Salmon shipments were more than double those of November last year, and gains were also recorded in sardines, and in condensed and evaporated milk. The detailed figures for the months of November, 1927 and 1928, are given in the following table:

Articles	November, 1927		November, 1928	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,113,843	$362,689	1,147,316	$404,063
Beef	99,577	35,884	131,650	41,865
Pork	410,345	134,425	594,617	221,814
Sausage	441,075	134,986	225,080	89,098
Other	162,848	37,444	185,969	51,288
Canned vegetables, total	8,009,572	704,302	9,176,265	844,021
Asparagus	1,113,161	163,852	1,330,701	206,228
Baked beans, and pork and beans	1,328,086	110,820	1,418,874	113,544
Corn	570,798	41,402	1,586,088	107,206
Peas	421,457	40,681	873,296	73,066
Soup	2,418,795	224,394	2,469,557	236,827
Tomatoes	1,292,744	66,948	375,821	29,241
Other	866,031	56,204	1,170,426	78,309
Condensed milk	2,989,514	483,476	3,335,381	519,869
Evaporated milk	4,662,030	491,570	6,275,942	652,817
Canned fruits, total	24,214,058	2,188,165	33,006,895	2,842,283
Apples and apple sauce	2,100,851	110,764	5,662,570	298,205
Apricots	2,293,802	231,968	2,198,199	205,836
Berries	623,101	74,483	1,485,268	164,741
Cherries	151,889	24,205	241,034	38,037
Peaches	7,086,676	578,604	8,940,252	729,672
Pears	6,182,633	647,321	10,387,088	1,005,795
Pineapple	4,368,811	395,924	2,509,781	242,801
Prunes	402,308	88,799	253,996	21,836
Other	1,004,187	81,097	1,128,698	135,858
Salmon	1,548,390	254,319	4,638,219	770,161
Sardines	5,806,273	473,870	6,232,934	504,393

Standards for Various Vegetables Announced

U. S. standards (1928) have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for cabbage, onions, mustard greens, okra, turnip greens and romaine. Copies of the standards and grades are available from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Bulletin on Corn Borer in New York

The life history, habits and control of the European corn borer in Erie and Chautauqua counties of New York are discussed in a 12-page bulletin issued as circular No. 107 of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva.

Canned Fruits and Vegetables in Chile

It is estimated by the trade that 100,000 cases of peaches were canned in Chile from the 1927 crop, according to information furnished by the office of the American Commercial Attache at Santiago. Most of these cases contained 48 tins of 30 ounces each. The pack of other fruits is estimated at 6,000 cases containing 48 tins of 30 ounces each.

During the first six months of the present year, canned fruits amounting to 324,742 pounds with a value of $18,946 were exported. The greater part of the exports went to the more northern countries of the West Coast of South America, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. One reason that exports are so small is the high price of the Chilean product as compared with that packed in the United States.

The principal vegetables canned are petis pois, tomatoes, split peas, string beans, corn and asparagus. It is believed the annual production is approximately 20,000 cases of petis pois, 5,000 cases of tomatoes and considerably less of the remainder of those listed. Petis pois are packed 48 tins to the case, each containing 17.5 ounces, while a case of tomatoes contains 48 tins of 30 ounces each.

Import duties on canned fruits and vegetables were increased by the Chilean new tariff which was promulgated in February, 1928, to 44 cents per pound, gross, an increase of 11 cents per pound.

Vignette on Labels Used for Mixed Vegetables

If the vignette on labels for mixed vegetables shows various vegetables, all those depicted should be present in the can. If vegetables are shown in the vignette that are not present in the can, the product will come under the provision in the Federal Food and Drugs Act which provides that it is misbranded if the label bears a design which is "false or misleading in any particular."

While no official ruling has been issued, the foregoing represents the opinion of the Office of Food and Drug Administration as expressed in correspondence.

Senate Passes Prison-Made Goods Bill

The Senate on December 19 passed with several amendments the House bill (H. R. 7729) which would divest prison-made goods of their interstate character when shipped into any state or territory and remaining there for use, storage, or sale, making them subject to the laws of such state or territory. Amendments adopted by the Senate except from the provisions of the bill commodities manufactured in Federal, penal or correctional institutions, for use by the Federal Government; provide that the act shall not apply to the preparation or processing of farm products, so as to make the same suitable for use by manufacturers in the making of any manufactured article, and further

provide that the act shall take effect five years after its approval instead of three.

Employment in November

Employment decreased 0.5 per cent in November as compared with October, and pay-roll totals decreased 3 per cent, according to a preliminary report issued by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The level of employment in manufacturing industries in November, 1928, was 2.1 per cent higher than in November, 1927, and pay-roll totals were 4.9 per cent higher.

Twenty-six of 54 industries and 5 of the 12 groups of industries had more employees in November, 1928, than in October. Of the 9 geographic divisions the 3 along the Atlantic seaboard and the 2 South Central divisions reported increased employment in November.

Farm Prices

The index of farm prices on November 15 was 134, or 3 points lower than on October 15, 7 points lower than on September 15 and 3 points lower than a year ago. The principal declines were shown for meat animals, grains, and fruit and vegetables.

Wholesale and Retail Prices in November

Further reduction in the general level of wholesale prices is shown for November by the index of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's weighted index number, computed on prices in the year 1926 as the base and including 550 commodities or price series, stands at 96.7 for November compared with 97.8 for October, a decrease of over 1 per cent. The November index number exactly coincides with the index number for November, 1927.

The retail food index issued by the Bureau shows for November 15, 1928, an increase of about one-third of 1 per cent since October 15, 1928; an increase of a little more than one-half of 1 per cent since November 15, 1927; and an increase of 50 per cent since November 15, 1913. The average retail prices of evaporated milk, baked beans and canned tomatoes increased 1 per cent; canned salmon decreased 1 per cent, and there was no change in the average prices of canned corn and canned peas.

Study of Wholesale Grocery Operating Costs

The results of the study, cooperatively undertaken by the Domestic Commerce Division, Department of Commerce, and the

National Association of Wholesale Grocers, to find some measure of commodity costs which might be utilized by small establishments, are reported in "The Wholesale Grocer's Problem," Distribution Cost Studies Bulletin No. 4, available without charge from the Domestic Commerce Division. Opportunities were dis covered to reduce by 50 per cent the number of inventory items in the wholesale grocery house studied. Analysis of warehousing and delivery costs indicated that many items were being handled below cost. Analysis of orders showed that 45 per cent of all orders received were under $10 each, and that these orders accounted for only 12 per cent of the dollar volume of business. Accurate cost analysis is advocated as favoring elimination of economic waste in the distribution mechanism as a whole, as well as in the individual establishment, by focusing attention on profits instead of volume.

Alaska Fishery Regulations Amended

New regulations for the protection of the Alaska fisheries, approved by the Secretary of Commerce to be effective January 1, 1929, impose additional restrictions in a few areas where it is believed the intensity of fishing has been too great.

Among the outstanding changes in the Alaska fishery regulations for 1929, the following items are mentioned:

In the Bristol Bay area the length of gill nets has been reduced from 200 fathoms to 150 fathoms. This is to apply over the entire area.

The principle adopted a year ago for the Southeastern Alaska and Prince William Sound areas of declaring all waters closed to trap fishing, except in specified waters outside bays and estuaries, has been extended to the Alaska Peninsula, Chignik, Kodiak and Cook Inlet areas, which are the remaining areas where trap fishing is permitted.

Action has been taken to further reduce the number of traps that will be in operation in 1929. It is computed that in the several areas affected the reduction in traps will be approximately 95, of which about 60 will be in Southeastern Alaska, 20 in Cook Inlet and the others in the Prince William Sound, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula areas. Also a number of places heretofore open to traps in the Southeastern and Prince William Sound areas have been reduced in extent or have been entirely closed.

The Southeastern Alaska area has been divided into eight districts instead of the six heretofore in effect. These will be known as the Yakutat, Icy Strait, Western, Eastern, Stikinek,

North Prince of Wales Island, South Prince of Wales Island, and Southern districts. Opening and closing dates for these new districts are specified in the regulations, and vary somewhat from the dates previously in effect.

In the Southeastern Alaska Area no floating trap shall exceed 900 feet in length when any part of such trap is in a greater depth of water than 100 feet at mean high tide. The length of any such trap shall be as measured along the lead from shore at mean high tide to the outer face of the pot.

Action has been taken to prevent the influx of large purse seine boats into the waters of Alaska. No boat in excess of 50 feet in length, as shown by official registry measurement, may be used in operating a purse seine. Certain Bering Sea waters of the Alaska Peninsula area are excepted from this provision.

In Southeastern Alaska during the months of January, February and March, commercial trolling cannot be conducted by power boats. Commercial trolling during these three months may be conducted only by boats propelled by oars or sails. The regulations also provide that not to exceed six trolling lines may be operated by any boat at one time.

Will Extend Japanese Beetle Quarantine

The area of spread of the Japanese beetle for 1928, contiguous to the present area under quarantine, will be included in the revision of the quarantine now in preparation, according to an announcement by the Secretary of Agriculture. The exact details of the territory to be so included will be announced later in connection with the issuance of the revised regulations.

In general, the additions will include, for Pennsylvania, the township of Rye (Perry county) in which the town of Marysville is located; for Connecticut, the city of New Haven and certain adjacent townships; for Delaware all of the State north of Sussex county, and for Maryland, the northeast corner of the State, including most of Cecil county.

In addition to such spread which is directly connected with the previous Japanese beetle area, a considerable number of isolated points of spread remote from such general area has been determined during the past two years. With respect to such points the Secretary approves the policy of treating them as separate control units, rather than to include them by a broad extension of the quarantine lines in the general quarantined area.

This action is necessarily conditioned upon cooperation by the States concerned acceptable to the Department, and is in

accord with policies which hitherto have been followed in connection with other plant quarantines; namely, such quarantines as those on account of the gypsy moth, the corn borer, and the pink bollworm.

In the case of the Japanese beetle, such State cooperation will involve: (a) Nursery control under State quarantine, but with Federal supervision, making such control the exact equivalent to what would be enforced under a Federal quarantine; (b) enforcement of clean-up operations to reduce or, if possible as to certain points, to eradicate the pest—these to include soil treatment of areas known or believed to be infested with the larvae, and the collection of beetles during the next summer by use of traps or by hand.

The outlying points of infestation concerned in this announcement are as follows: Hagerstown, Frederick, Cambridge, and Delmar, Md.—the latter town extending into Delaware; Lewistown and Sayre, Pa.; Hartford and New London, Conn.; Springfield, Mass.; and Washington, D. C., including Arlington County, Va.; namely, the portion of Virginia which was originally incorporated in the District of Columbia.

Hawaiian Winter Pineapple Crop Reported Below Average

The winter crop of pineapples in the Hawaiian Islands is below average, and the year's pineapple pack is expected also to be short, according to information cabled to the Department of Commerce from the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce.

Duty on Onions Increased

The duty on onions has been increased 50 per cent by a proclamation issued by the President under the flexible provisions of the Tariff Act. The new rate, effective 30 days from December 22, will be 1½ cents per pound.

Norwegian Canners Plan Price Control

Norwegian manufacturers of canned foods have decided to create a council for price fixing, according to information released in the December 20, 1928, issue of Nordisk Tidende. The council will establish minimum prices for exports and formulate plans for the regulation of production. It was further decided to form separate buying centrals for the control of the market. The manufacturers will also endeavor to foster greater cooperation between the exporters and the banks.

Cuba to Enforce Food Purity Standards

Recent Cuban customs circulars, referring to Presidential Decree No. 1484, published September 18, 1926, prohibit the importation into Cuba of food and medicinal products prepared solely for export by foreign manufacturers, and provide that in the case of such products for which no standard of purity has been established by the Cuban law the same standard governing in the country of origin will be applied, according to information received in the U. S. Department of Commerce. All products not meeting this standard will be rejected. In no instance will products be admitted which are of inferior quality, manufactured solely for export, or the sale or consumption of which is prohibited or not authorized in the country of origin. The provisions of this decree have been effective for over two years, and the issuance of these circulars re-emphasizes the intention to enforce them.

Business Conditions

Steel plants showed lessened activity during the week ended December 22, as compared with the preceding week, but were almost 20 per cent more active than a year ago, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The volume of money turnover, as indicated by check payments, was greater than in either period. The general index of wholesale prices was slightly stronger than in the preceding week, being still somewhat higher than a year ago.

Loans and discounts of Federal reserve member banks showed only slight change from the previous week but were higher than a year ago. Interest rates on time money averaged higher than in either the preceding week or in the same period of last year. Prices for stocks recovered from the level of the preceding week. Bond prices, reflecting higher interest rates, were still lower than in either the preceding week or the same period of 1927.

Business failures were less numerous than in either the previous week or the same period of 1927.

Loading of revenue freight for the week ended December 15 totaled 964,086 cars, which, due to the usual season decline in traffic, was a decrease of 20,266 cars under the preceding week. The total for the week of December 15 was an increase of 95,336 cars over the corresponding week in 1927, and 19,690 cars over the same week in 1926.

Miscellaneous freight loading totaled 347,042 cars, an increase of 48,066 cars over the corresponding week last year, and

35,189 cars over the same week in 1926. Loading of merchandise less-than-carload-lot freight totaled 251,984 cars, an increase of 5,672 cars above the same week in 1927 and 5,147 cars over the corresponding week two years ago.

Concentrated Milk Markets Firm

Stocks of condensed and evaporated milk in the hands of manufacturers on December 1 totaled 191,879,085 pounds. Compared with last year this is a rather moderate amount. But when it is seen that the reduction in reserve stocks from a month earlier was only about 12,000,000 pounds, compared with an average reduction for the past five years of nearly 30,000,000 pounds, from November 1 to December 1, the logical conclusion is that movement into trade channels has not been as great as a year ago, especially when considered with the apparent decrease in production, in November a year ago, of about 7 per cent. The tone of the market, however, has remained firm.

Frost Affects Southern Truck Crops

Tender truck in southern sections was damaged somewhat by frost from Alabama to Texas, according to the Weather Bureau's report for the week ending December 25, but hardy varieties were uninjured and doing well, except that the cold delayed germination and growth. Showers improved citrus in Florida; the subnormal temperatures, with many killing frosts, caused some damage to citrus in unprotected groves in the San Joaquin Valley of California, where there was general heating, and scattered heating was necessary in the southern portion.

Movement of Green Peas and Tomatoes

Carlot shipments of green peas during the week ending December 22 totaled 10 cars while imports from Mexico were 27 cars. Up to December 22 the combined domestic shipments and imports were 480 cars as compared with 352 cars for the corresponding period last year.

Domestic shipments of 1929 season tomatoes totaled 113 cars, and imports from Mexico, Cuba and the Bahamas amounted to 344 cars. Up to December 22 the domestic shipments and imports (1929 season) totaled 1,294 cars as against 774 cars in the corresponding period of last year.

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